

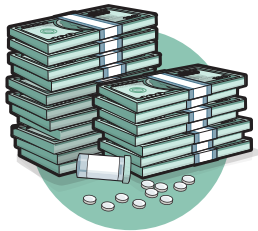


The High Price of the Opioid Crisis

Increasing access to treatment can reduce costs

Untreated opioid use disorder (OUD), a chronic brain disease, has a serious cost to people, their families, and society via increased health care spending, criminal justice issues, and lost productivity.

Each year, prescription opioid overdose, misuse, and dependence account for:



\$28.9 billion in health care costs¹

Patients with an OUD incur approximately \$18,000 in additional costs annually.²



\$7.6 billion in criminal justice costs³

96% of costs fall to state and local governments.⁴



\$41.8 billion in lost productivity⁵

7 in 10 employers experience issues associated with prescription drug misuse, such as employee absenteeism, decreased job performance, and injury.⁶

Illicit opioids, including heroin and fentanyl, add even more costs.

More than 33,000 Americans died of an opioid overdose in 2015.⁷ Improving access to evidence-based treatments for OUD can help save lives and reduce costs to society.

Endnotes

- 1 Curtis S. Florence et al., "The Economic Burden of Prescription Opioid Overdose, Abuse, and Dependence in the United States, 2013" *Medical Care* 54, no. 10 (2016): 901-6, http://journals.lww.com/lww-medicalcare/Abstract/2016/10000/The_Economic_Burden_of_Prescription_Opioid.2.aspx.
- 2 Alan G. White et al., "Economic Impact of Opioid Abuse, Dependence, and Misuse," *American Journal of Pharmacy Benefits* 3, no. 4 (2011): e59-70, https://ajmc.s3.amazonaws.com/_media/_pdf/AJPB_11julaug_White_e59_to_e70.pdf.
- 3 Florence et al., "The Economic Burden of Prescription Opioid Overdose."
- 4 Ibid.
- 5 Ibid.
- 6 Deborah A.P. Hersman, "How the Prescription Drug Crisis Is Impacting American Employers," National Safety Council (2017), <http://www.nsc.org/NewsDocuments/2017/Media-Briefing-National-Employer-Drug-Survey-Results.pdf>.
- 7 Rose A. Rudd et al., "Increases in Drug and Opioid-Involved Overdose Deaths—United States, 2010–2015," *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 65, no. 50-51 (2016): 1445-52, <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm655051e1>.

For further information, please visit:

pewtrusts.org/substancemisuse

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